

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LISBON 04869 251848Z

43

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 PM-03 AF-04 SAM-01 SP-02 PRS-01 /044 W

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P R 251739Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3913

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T LISBON 4869

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: PPD PARTICIPATION IN FABIAO-MELO ANTUNES

GOVERNMENT

REF: LISBON 4864 251450Z AUG 75

SUMMARY: PPD DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL RUI MACHETE SAYS PPD HAS DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE IN FABIAO-MELO ANTUNES GOVERNMENT DESPITE CERTAIN PHILOSOPHIC DIFFERENCES. THEIR PARTY IS MORE CONSERVATIVE THAN MELO ANTUNES GROUP, THEY THEY FIND MELO ANTUNES ECONOMIC PLATFORM REALISTIC AND RECOGNIZE THAT HE REPRESENTS BEST HOPE RIGHT NOW OF SHAKING COMMUNIST GRIP ON GOP. FORMER SYG SA CARNEIRO HAS REGAINED HIS HEALTH AND WILL RETURN IN SEPTEMBER TO TAKE OVER REINS OF PARTY. PRESENT SYG GUERREIRO WILL LEAVE PORTUGAL "OSTENSIVELY FOR HEALTH REASONS." END SUMMARY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LISBON 04869 251848Z

1. RUI MACHETE, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF PPD AND SA CARNEIRO CONFIDANTE TOLD ME TODAY THAT AFTER CONSIDERABLE INTERNAL DEBATE PPD HAD DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE IN FABIAO-MELO ANTUNES GOVERNMENT, ASSUMING ANTUNES GROUP IS SUCCESSFUL IN OUSTING VASCO GONCALVES. DEBATE WITHIN PPD AROSE BECAUSE PARTY HAS CERTAIN FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES WITH ANTUNES GROUPS PHILOSOPHY (ANTUNES GROUP SAYS SAME THING OF PPD). PPD IS BASCIALLY NON-MARXIST WHEREAS MELO ANTUNES IS MARXIST INFLUENCED. IN ADDITION IT NOT CLEAR WHETHER MELO ANTUNES IS PUTTING TOGETHER A COALITION GOVERNMENT OR ASKING FOR PARTIES TO NOMINATE INDIVIDUALS. IN ANY EVENT PPD OFFICIAL SA BORGES HAS ACCEPTED SOCIAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO. FINANCE PORTFOLIO WAS OFFERED TO AMBASSADOR HERNANI LOPES OF PPD WHO DECLINED FOR PERSONAL REASONS (THIS MODIFIED INFO REPORTED REFTEL). THE PPD MAY MAKE OTHER, POSSIBLY NON-PARTY, NOMINATION FOR THIS POST.

2. RUI MACHETE SAID SA CARNEIRO'S HEALTH HAD GREATLY IMPROVED AND HE INTENDS TO RETURN TO PORTUGAL IN LATE SEPTEMBER. PRESENT SYG EMIDIO GUERREIRO WOULD LEAVE PORTUGAL PERMANENTLY "OSTENSIVELY FOR HEALTH REASONS" AND "HOPEFULLY THIS WEEK" (IT IS OBVIOUS GUERREIRO IS BEING SACKED). SA CARNEIRO INTENDS TO ISSUE A COMMUNIQUE THIS WEEK INDICATING HIS INTENTION TO RETURN AND ATTACKING THE AFM AF NO LONGER THE "MOTOR OF THE REVOLUTION." MACHETE SAID SA CARNEIRO IS CONVINCED PORTUGAL WILL RETURN TO A CONSERVATIVE FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

3. I SAID THAT MIGHT BE TRUE OVER TIME, ALTHOUGH I WAS UNCERTAIN, BUT SURELY THE ONLY POSSIBLITY TO SHAKE THE COMMUNIST GRIP ON PORTUGAL RIGHT NOW WAS THE MELO ANTUNES GROUP. MACHETE FULLY AGREED, AND SAID THAT IS WHY PPD WAS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR GOVERNMENT DESPITE PHILOSOPHIC DIFFERENCES. HE SAID HE HAD SEEN BASIC PLATFORM OF MELO ANTUNES GOVERNMENT, THE SYNTHESIS OF THE SO-CALLED "NINE DOCUMENT" AND THE COPCON DOCUMENT. IT CONTAINS A FAR-LEFT PHILOSOPHICAL SECTION WHICH WHILE WELL WRITEEN WILL HAVE LITTLE PRACTICAL EFFECT. IT ALSO MAKES SOME CONCESSION TO OTELO ON GRASS ROOTS COMMITTEES, ETC. IT MAKES A COMMITMENT TO RESTORE PRESTIGE OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LISBON 04869 251848Z

AND PROCCEDED WITH LOCAL ELECTIONS. MOST IMPORTANTLY IT CONTAINS VERY REALISTIC APPROACH TO ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, INCLUDING SOME NECESSARY STEPS TO RESTORE INVESOTR CONFIDENCE THAT MACHETE CLASSIFIED AS "RIGHT-WING." IT WAS ESSENTIALLY A PROGRAM THAT THE PPD COULD BUY.

4. AFTER REFLECTING ON MY COMMENTS, MACHETE AGREED THAT TIMING WAS VERY IMPORTANT AND IT MIGHT NOT BE APPROPRIATE

FOR SA CARNEIRO TO LAUNCH ATTACK ON AFM RIGHT NOW. SAID  
HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO GET SA CARNEIRO TO SOFTEN HIS APPROACH  
SO THAT PPD WOULD NOT START OUT ON WRONG FOOT WITH  
MELO ANTUNES GOVERNMENT.  
CARLUCCI

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REFORM, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X4  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** 75 LISBON 4864  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PPD PARTICIPATION IN FABIAO-MELO ANTUNES GOVERNMENT  
**TAGS:** PINT, PO, PPD, (MACHETE, RUI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006